

1911.

Dear
Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Brandon & Byshottles
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

At the Census taken in April, the total population of your district was found to be 17,668, being an increase of 2,095 over the Census of 1901. It likewise shows that the estimated population of 1910 was about 1,000 above the actual population. At the middle of the year 1911, I estimated the population to be 17,748, and the rates in this report are based on that number.

The area in acres is about 6,683. The district is long and narrow, extending about six and a half miles from east to west, and is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad. It is hilly and divided into five wards, the East, West, North, South and Centre. The East, South, and Centre adjoin each other and are the most populous; the North and West are isolated. The district is a coalfield, the upper strata being of sand, gravel and clay. The houses are situated principally on the slopes of the hills and are in a good position for natural drainage. They are not crowded together and the streets are wide and open providing for free ventilation.

The nett deaths belonging to the district numbered 299 for the year being 55 more than in the previous year. The deaths were at the rate of 16.841 per thousand, those under 5 years of age (158) being at the rate of 8.90 per thousand, and those over 5 years (141) being at the rate of 7.94 per thousand.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases (84) were at the rate of 4.73 per thousand of the population. This includes 51 deaths from Diarrhoea, which is an unusually large number, and without this number the rate would be 1.86 per thousand. Infant mortality rate, 157 per thousand births registered. There were 91 deaths of children under the age of one year.

The Phthisis death-rate was .96 per thousand and shows a slight increase over the rate in the previous year and also the County rate. There were 17 deaths from Phthisis and 11 from other tuberculous diseases. The Respiratory death-rate excluding Phthisis (42) was 2.37 per thousand.

Twelve Inquests were held, and there were three uncertified deaths.

579 births were registered during the year. Of these 276 were males and 303 were females. The births were at the rate of 32.55 per thousand, and is a little higher than in the previous year and slightly above the County rate.

In the following table the rates for your district and for the County of Durham are compared:

	BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES.	COUNTY OF DURHAM.
Birth-rate	... ...	32.55 31.7
Death-rate	... ...	16.8 16.1
Zymotic Death-rate	... ...	4.73 3.01
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	157	158
Phthisis death-rate	... ...	.96 .83
Respiratory death-rate (excluding Phthisis)	2.37	2.39

There were fourteen deaths from Measles and ten from Whooping Cough during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

54 cases were notified, being only slightly over half the number in the previous year. Of these 26 were Enteric Fever, 12 were Scarlet Fever, 10 were Diphtheria, and 6 were Erysipelas. These diseases were distributed as follows:—Enteric Fever—there were 10 cases in the East Ward, 8 in the North, 7 in the Centre, and 1 in the West. There were no cases in the South Ward. Scarlet Fever—there were 5 cases in the Centre, 4 in the West, 2 in the North, and 1 in the East. Diphtheria—there were 5 cases in the West, 2 in the East, 2 in the Centre, and 1 in the North. Erysipelas—there were 4 cases in the North, and 2 in the South. These were the only cases in the South Ward.

Your Inspector and I visited all infected premises, instructions were given, and disinfectants were supplied. 51 houses were stoved.

24 patients were removed to the Hospital, 22 suffering from Enteric Fever, 1 from Scarlet Fever, and 1 from Diphtheria. All these patients recovered with the exception of one of the Enteric Fever cases which terminated fatally.

The Hospital was not required and remained empty during the first five months of the year and in July and August. In June it was occupied by the case of Diphtheria. In September 13 Enteric Fever patients were removed, in October, 8, and in November, 1. The Scarlet Fever patient was admitted at the latter part of December after all the Enterics had been discharged. Only in September and October was it at all taxed.

PROPOSED NEW ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

It is proposed to erect a new Isolation Hospital of a permanent type and sufficient for the requirements of the district. Negotiations are still pending for the purchase of the necessary site, and as soon as satisfactory terms can be arranged there is nothing to prevent this scheme being pushed forward,

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

All the Cowsheds and Dairies in the district have, during the year, been inspected, being 31 in number, in which were housed 209 Cows for milking purposes. Several byres were found with dirty walls and floors, two with defective floor paving and one with a nuisance on premises caused by an insanitary privy. Notices have been served with regard to all the defects, which are receiving attention by the owners and tenants. No overcrowding of byres was noticed, a good water supply is laid on to practically all the premises. No tuberculous cows were detected, and the District Council's New Regulations are now in force, demanding 600 feet of air space per cow as the minimum standard. And copies and large posters of the New Regulations have been forwarded to every Cow Keeper in the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These institutions have all been inspected during the year. Two nuisances were found and notices served for their abatement. Generally speaking they have been fairly well maintained, kept clean, good water supply and all refuse and garbage collected and removed from premises after killing operations. The three chief slaughter houses in the district are in connection with the Co-operative Societies of Meadowfield, Waterhouses and New Brancepeth, which are fairly modern in construction and well kept.

There are a few cases where the Slaughter House is badly situated, being too near dwelling houses, and where the killing is done either in the shop, or in close proximity thereto. Such arrangements are most undesirable and have attached to them many difficulties and disadvantages.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging of the district, which is done by contract, and which has been in the hands of thirteen contractors has been on the whole well executed. Difficulty, however, was experienced with one contractor, who persisted in tipping ashpit refuse too near a public street, but which eventually was remedied. A great improvement is being effected by the substitution of the modern ash-closet for the privy midden, inasmuch as the ash-closets are cleansed and disinfected every seven days, there being less accumulation, less nuisance when scavenging operations are going on, and the structures being more sanitary.

Excrement disposal.—The refuse is spread on land for manuring purposes and also on the Council's Tips. House refuse is removed and dealt with in a similar manner.

SUBSTITUTION OF ASH-CLOSETS FOR ASHPIT PRIVIES.

It is very satisfactory to note that this work is progressing rapidly. The privy ashpit system in the district, will soon be a thing of the past. During 1911, 266 New ash-closets have been substituted for privy middens, making a total of 1,623, for the past six years. And in 154 instances yard premises have been paved with cement concrete during the year.

At the present time there are 3,526 dwelling houses in the district; 2,716 ash-closets of good construction, 50 water-closets, and 434 ashpit privies.

During the past year, 103 dwelling houses have been erected and 81 of such houses occupied.

BRANDON VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

This Village which consists of 54 dwelling houses, has during the past year been very greatly improved by the owners at a cost of about £600. Thirty-one new ash-closets in place of privies on a plan submitted to the owners have been provided including thirty coal-houses, and three wash-houses; several yard premises cemented, and drainage improved. Seven dwellings have been improved in light and ventilation, one of which has been practically reconstructed. Two have been given through ventilation by inserting back doors in a blank wall.

NEW BRANCEPETH, EAST SIDE.

A new system of drainage has been completed for this Village. Every yard paved with cement concrete, branch drains and gullies provided for every house. Every ashpit privy has now been abolished, and also the streets are being generally improved by the owners.

WATERHOUSES.

Arthur Street and Dale Street have been furnished with ash-closets and coal houses in place of place of privy middens. For East Street a new system of drainage has been put down and every yard paved with cement concrete,

BRANDON COLLIERY.

For this place, during the year, the owners have built eighteen good five-roomed houses of excellent construction, and are now proceeding with the work of enclosed yards—cemented, new ash-closets, and drainage for Cobden Terrace and Albert Street.

BROWNEY COLLIERY.

The owners of this place, have during the year, built another block of seventeen good five-roomed houses with wash-houses and enclosed cemented yards, and are proceeding with the work of replacing all the privy ash-pits with new ash-closets.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP INSPECTIONS.

During the year all the workshops in the district have been carefully inspected, including seven factories and one bakery, being twenty eight in number. Six sanitary defects were found, and notices served for their abatement, viz., dirty walls, and insufficient or defective sanitary accommodation and appliances. No overcrowding was detected. The industries observed are chiefly tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, boot-repairing, joinery, blacksmithing, aerated water making, and sanitary pipe making. The principal workrooms are in connection with the Co-operative Societies of Meadowfield, New Brancepeth, and Waterhouses, which are in good condition and afford ample accommodation for the employees.

OVERCROWDING.

Twenty Notices have been served concerning overcrowding and fifteen abatements effected. There is still overcrowding in the district resulting from very large families. However, there is undoubtedly a marked improvement as the result of the erection of a quantity of new and larger houses by the various Colliery Companies of the district.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DURING THE YEAR.

Special visits to premises, on complaint or otherwise for the detection of nuisances	528
Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	488
Nuisances abated after notices	796
Sanitary conveniences Inspected in reference to Scavenging	5,078
Notices served upon the Contractors	45
Infected premises visited and Inspected.....	48
Articles of bedding disinfected, or destroyed	255
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	51
Ash-closets substituted for privy-middens.....	266
Abatements of over crowding	15
Yard premises laid in Cement Concrete	154
Workshops Inspected	28
Cowsheds and Dairies Inspected.....	31
Patients removed to Hospital	24

CEMETERIES.

At Meadowfield Cemetery 93 interments have taken place and 62 at Waterhouses.

JOINT SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

This Hospital is now complete and the calls upon your Council have all been met.

BRANDON COLLIERY SEWERS.

454 yards of sewers have been laid to replace open channels, as soon as the Colliery Company make the necessary connections the open channel drainage of 131 houses will have been abolished.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT.

Work to the extent of £1,131 has been carried out under this Act during the year bringing the total area of Roads made up-to-date as follows:—Area of Flagging, 3,162 sq. yards, Area of Road Surface, 14,335 sq. yards.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The several Sewage Disposal Works continue to give good results especially at Littleburn. The Effluent from these works continues to be excellent. At Lymington Terrace a plot of land has been taken to deal with excess storm water.



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FLAGGING SCHEME.

A Local Government Board Enquiry has been held with a view of obtaining a loan of £2,500 for the improvement of Public Footpaths in the District, and as soon as the sanction is obtained the work of Flagging—about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of defective footpaths will be proceeded with. The scheme involves the laying of over 10,000 sq. yards of concrete flags and about 4,500 yards of concrete kerbing.

The water supply of the district is good and continuous, being obtained from the Weardale and Consett Water Company, and is laid into the houses. It is an upland water of very soft nature, but to prevent its plumbo-solvent action a certain amount of lime is dissolved in it daily, the quantity of lime being $1\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. to 2,000,000 gallons of water. Frequent examination of the water has proved it to be satisfactory from this point of view. There has been no case of lead poisoning in the district. A few isolated places and farm houses draw their supply from Springs.

The water supply at Brandon Village continues to be satisfactory.

No action was taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, nor under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

There are no common lodging houses, and no tenemented property in the district, and no offensive trades are carried on in it.

The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is satisfactory, and all have a good and abundant water supply. The medical inspection of school children is conducted by one of the School Medical Officers of the County Council. Children suffering from infectious disease, or living in an infected house, are not allowed to attend school.

Notification of pulmonary tuberculosis was not in operation and no action was taken in these cases. No hospital accommodation is provided. I would again recommend that all houses be disinfected by your Council after they cease to be occupied by a phthisical patient.

The Notification of Births Act. 1907, is in force in your district and one health visitor is employed in performing the duties under the Act. She reports that the work is proceeding satisfactorily. Her re-visits, both in the case of births and in the homes of the school children, show that the advice given has to a great extent been carried out. Every effort is made to encourage natural feeding and an increasing desire on the part of the mothers to fulfil her duty in that respect is noticed. When artificial feeding is necessary the importance of careful and proper feeding is emphasised. During the hot months all hand-fed children were visited as often as possible. The parents were warned of the danger of summer Diarrhoea to young children and urged to obtain medical advice on the first appearance of that disorder. Attention has been drawn to any sanitary defects found.

The number of infantile deaths was 91, being six more than in the previous year when it was 85. The infant mortality rate rose from 143 to 157 per thousand births, this increase being mainly due to the number of deaths from Diarrhoea. This rate is lower than the average for the past ten years and is practically the same as the rate for the whole County.

Appended are the official tables containing much valuable information.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HENRY SMITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Durham,

5th February, 1912.

TABLE I.

Brandon & Byshottles Urban Sanitary District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.				
		Nett.		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Un-corrected Number	Number							Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1906	17,230	568	...	32.963	291	16.888	...	...	112	197	302	17.527	
1907	17,563	618	...	35.187	244	13.893	...	...	87	140	257	14.633	
1908	17,923	662	...	36.935	313	17.406	...	...	127	191	320	17.854	
1909	18,297	638	...	34.865	252	13.773	...	...	79	124	264	14.429	
1910	18,674	594	...	31.809	225	12.048	...	..	85	143	244	13.066	
1911	17,748	579	...	32.55	286	16.114	3	16	91	157	299	16.841	

Total population at all ages 17,668
 Number of inhabited houses 3,526
 Average number of persons per house 5.03 At Census of 1911.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of Area covered by water) ... 6,683.

TABLE II.
BRANDON AND BYSHOTTLES URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.
 Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65 upwards.	East Ward	West Ward	North Ward	South Ward	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	10	4	4	2	.	.	.	2	5	1	2	1
Erysipelas ...	6	.	.	.	4	1	1	.	4	2	.	.
Scarlet Fever ...	12	.	.	11	1	.	.	1	4	2	5	1
Enteric Fever ..	26	.	.	6	12	8	.	10	1	8	7	22
Totals ...	54	.	.	4	21	15	12	1	1	13	10	14

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Name and Situation | BRANDON ISOLATION HOSPITAL, Mr. Brandon. Total Available beds, 10. No. of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

TABLE III.

Brandon & Byshottles Urban Sanitary District.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
All causes	296	91	40	27	11	14	28	30	55		
Certified	296	91	40	27	11	14	28	30	55		
Uncertified	3							1	2		
Enteric Fever	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	
Measles	14	3	6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	10	6	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	5	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	17	1	1	1	1	4	6	3	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	10	2	2	1	2	1	2	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7	...	
Bronchitis	16	9	2	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	
Broncho-Pneumonia	15	4	5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	9	2	2	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	51	27	14	4	...	1	...	...	5	...	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	27	26	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	7	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	8	...	
Heart Disease	15	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	11	...	
Other Defined Diseases	46	7	4	4	3	1	5	12	10	...	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	18	4	...	...	1	...	1	3	9	...	
	299	91	40	27	11	14	28	31	57	1	

TABLE IV.

Brandon & Byshottles Urban Sanitary District.
INFANT MORTALITY, 1911.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

(See Note (a) at Back.)

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified ...	22	...	7	2	31	15	23	12	10	91
	Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	6
Diarrhoea	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	2	4	2	14
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	3	...	13
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Malformations (c)	...	2	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	...	...	13	...	3	...	16	...	...	...	16
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	6
Atelectasis	...	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Convulsions	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	4
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	3	1	2	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	6
Other causes	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
		22	...	7	2	31	15	23	12	10	91

NOTES TO TABLE IV.

- (a) The total in the last column of Table IV. should equal the total in column 10 of Table I, and in column 3 of Table III.
- (b) Under Abdominal Tuberculosis are to be included deaths from Tuberculous Peritonitis and Enteritis and from Tabes Mesenterica.
- (c) The total deaths from Congenital Malformations, Premature Birth, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, should equal the total in Table III. under the heading Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth.

Want of Breast Milk should be included under Atrophy and Debility.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

HENRY SMITH, M.D.,

5th February, 1912.

Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District of Brandon and Byshottles.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries) ...	7	1	Nil.
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	21	5	
Total	28	6	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Sanitary accommodation—unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	Nil.	Nil
Total	6	6	Nil.	Nil

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Twenty-one, including one Bakery, and	21
Seven Factories	7
Total number of Workshops on Register	28

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

